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BEAVERTON ARTS COMMISSION RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE ARTS

- Singers, Volunteers and a Gifted Dancer to be Honored on May 17 -

Beaverton, Oregon (May 10, 2010) – Join the **Beaverton Arts Commission (BAC)** to celebrate the recipients of the **2010 Outstanding Achievement in the Arts Awards**. Students will be recognized for their outstanding achievements. Individuals, organizations and businesses will be honored for their significant contributions to the arts. Beaverton Mayor Denny Doyle, the Beaverton City Council and Arts Commission President Diana Sullivan will present the awards at the City Council meeting on Monday, May 17th, at City Hall (4755 SW Griffith Dr.).

"I am in awe of the tremendous talent of our art students," said Mayor Denny Doyle. "I appreciate the contributions all of these individuals, organizations and businesses make to our community. We are a vibrant, cultural community because of the gifts they share with us."

Nominated by their peers and selected by the Board of Directors of the **Beaverton Arts Commission**, the individuals, businesses and organizations represented will be honored for their contributions to the arts. Student honorees were nominated by their teachers and selected by an arts education panel and approved by the Beaverton Arts Commission Board of Directors. Two, Outstanding High School Visual Art Students and Two, Outstanding Performing Art Students will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by the **Beaverton Arts Foundation**.

President's Award: Oregon Arts Commission

The Oregon Arts Commission provides grant funding opportunities to support the Arts in the state of Oregon through programs which provide funding opportunities which include general operating support, project-specific support, and support for artists' professional endeavors. The Oregon Arts Commission has been a pivotal supporter of the Beaverton Arts Commission over the past 25 years.

Arts Leadership Award: Scott Palmer, Artistic Director, Bag and Baggage Productions

Scott is being recognized for his tireless dedication to increasing the visibility of, and building audiences for, the performing arts in Washington County. His efforts have led to grant funding, partnership building and the launch of a quarterly Washington County Art Guide publication.

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Volunteer of the Year: Cynthia Rozanc

Cynthia has devoted countless hours of volunteer time to keep the Arts Commission website interesting, informative and up-to-date. She has also assisted with a major web redesign project.

Art in the Marketplace Award: ISing Community Choir

ISing Community Choir has helped to foster the appreciation of choral music in the community while raising funds for local non-profit organizations.

Patron of the Arts Award: Wayne Whitbeck

Wayne has been a valued supporter of the Beaverton Arts Commission's cultural programs. His patronage provides support for the Commission's student scholarship program and the Commission's annual, Visual Arts Showcase.

Outstanding Business in the Arts Award: A'Kasha (The Fifth Element)

Since its opening in 2007, A'Kasha has provided classes and workshops to encourage an interest in the creative arts in central Beaverton.

Outstanding Business in the Arts Award: Amato's Gallery

In 2010, Amato's began offering a unique venue for local artists to showcase their works, offer art demonstrations and conduct workshops.

Outstanding High School Performing Art Student: Ariana Bird, ACMA

Ariana Bird, nominated by Julane Stites of ACMA (Arts and Communication Magnet Academy), is a gifted dancer in a variety of dance styles. Her original choreographed piece, "Cintatara," was performed in March, 2010, at the National High School Dance Festival in Miami Florida. Ariana has been accepted to Cornish College of The Arts where she will continue to perfect her exquisite skills and further her creative education.

Outstanding High School Performing Art Student: Nathan Avakian, ACMA

Nathan Avakian, nominated by Raoul Bellis-Squires of ACMA, is the winner of the 2009 National Annual Young Theatre Organ Competition, is currently starring in "Nathan Avakian OUTSIDE THE BOX," and designs and installs lighting for the ACMA theater department. This multifaceted performing artist has also participated in Oregon Children's Theatre productions.

Outstanding High School Visual Art Student: Joseph Minh Hoang Nguyen, Aloha HS

Joseph, nominated by Tamara Ottum of Aloha High School, is a visual artist well-versed in a variety of mediums. Ms. Ottum states, "Joseph's artistic exploration and dedication to understanding the artistic process has allowed him to polish and perfect each work that he creates. Joseph's well-roundedness goes beyond art as he is greatly dedicated to humanitarian

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causes, founded the National Honors Society at Aloha HS, and has organized numerous fundraisers and community building events.”

Outstanding High School Visual Art Student: Alejandra Dominguez, Sunset HS

Alejandra, nominated by Cathy Cain of Sunset High School, is a visual artist enrolled in the two-year International Baccalaureate Art program offered at Sunset. Alejandra has received Scholastic Art & Writing Regional GOLD Key Awards for four years of her high school career. Ms. Cain states, “Driven by social responsibility, passion, and diligence, Alejandra has tried to give voice to Latino immigrants by creating pieces within the traditional Latin social art of the common man.”

ABOUT THE BEAVERTON ARTS COMMISSION

The BAC contributes significantly to the quality of life in Beaverton by presenting artistic and cultural events, which celebrate community values and helps connect residents to their artistic and cultural heritage. The BAC spearheads public art projects in Beaverton, including a mural program, as well as presenting the annual Visual Arts Showcase and Last Tuesdays, an outdoor celebration of music, art and food each summer. In 2009, the Beaverton Arts Commission joined forces with consultants Valerie Otani and Bill Flood to create a Public Art Plan. To view the plan, or for more information about the Beaverton Arts Commission, visit www.beavertonarts.org or call (503) 526-2288.

ABOUT BEAVERTON

Beaverton has been recognized as the **safest city in the Pacific Northwest** for three consecutive years, as one of the **best places to raise kids** by BusinessWeek magazine (2009), a **Top 100 Best Places to Live in America** by Money Magazine (2006), an **All-America City finalist** (2005), one of the **100 Best Walking Cities in America** by Prevention Magazine (2008), retains a **Bronze Award Bicycle Friendly community designation** by the League of American Bicyclists and is one of the Environmental Protection Agency's **Green Power Communities**. Beaverton also enjoys the most diverse population (by percentage of population) among Oregon cities.

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